

Monthly Update – February 2015

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

OVERVIEW

USAID-TAPP is increasing incomes for smallholder farmers, improving nutrition, and expanding markets through agricultural innovation and commercialization. The program is part of Feed the Future, the US government's global hunger and food security initiative to break the cycle of hunger and poverty in the developing world. Feed the Future is focusing on the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor (SAGCOT), a region the Tanzanian government has identified as the most conducive for agricultural growth. Working with our partners and the Government of Tanzania, USAID-TAPP is concentrating efforts on selected crops and regions to help transform the country's food security.

KAZI YANGU FG CELEBRATES INCREASED HARVESTS



Photo by Fintrac Inc

USAID-TAPP deputy production manager Aristaricki Lyimo (L) explains some of the techniques used by the Kazi Yangu fg to Morogoro regional commissioner Dr. Rajab Rutengwe (M) as Daniel Mtili (second right) and former Mvomero district commissioner Antony Mtaka (R) looks on.

The Kazi Yangu farmers group has begun harvesting from their recently expanded two acre farm. The group celebrated their increased harvests of tomatoes after receiving extensive technical training on good agricultural practices and integrated pest management from USAID-TAPP technicians.

Speaking during the field day on February 18th, Morogoro regional commissioner Dr. Rajab Rutengwe told more than 100 smallholder farmers from around the Morogoro region that such farms not only provide employment to youth but also ensure sustainable availability of food and income.

“Every household uses the produce from such farms. This makes the market of horticulture expand and increase incomes to many who depend on horticulture. This group has conveyed very good agricultural practices and this should be taken as an example for other farmers who still produce,” said Rutengwe.

The group started farming in early 2014 with traditional methods on a 0.25 acre plot, and expanded after record breaking sales of tomato. The group earned more than TZS 15 million (\$8,571), which they invested back into production with the construction of a large borehole in conjunction with USAID-TAPP. The remainder of their earnings was distributed towards expanding the farm from 0.25 acres to 2 acres. With support from USAID-TAPP, the tireless efforts of the group have resulted in increased sales from tomato yields through good agricultural practices and marketing linkages.

The group has earned more than TZS 28.6 million (\$16,250) from the sale of 16.7 tons of tomatoes on their current 2 acre plot, and they are still harvesting. Daniel Mtili, chairman of the Kazi Yangu farmers group, expressed his appreciation for the efforts by the USAID-TAPP technical specialists in ensuring the group increases their income through horticulture production.

“The hard work and tireless efforts from USAID-TAPP agronomists have made us reach this far, the training on good agriculture practices have resulted into an enormous increase in harvests which we are proud of and we are very thankful,” said Mtili.

KATI PTC AMPLIFIES FIELD TRAININGS IN ZANZIBAR

The Kizimbani Agriculture Training Institute (KATI) practical training center (PTC) hosted more than 60 participants at horticulture training from January 23rd to February 7th. The training was facilitated by two experts from the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries, Prof. Dr. Ahmed El Leithy and Prof. Dr. El Sayed Geith. The participants included government extension officers, smallholder farmers, and government officials in the horticulture sector.

The training focused on modern processes in horticulture production under typical Zanzibar weather conditions. The participants received training on horticulture developments through improved technologies to boost harvests. The field training focused on different technologies used in open fields such as sand filters, drip irrigation, live barriers, raised beds, hybrid seeds, and integrated pest management.

“The PTC has been hosting agricultural trainings to the State University of Zanzibar, secondary schools, and private farmers who have been paying a visit to the PTC. The participants have appreciated the level of technology used on the field which adds value to certificate and diploma students of the institution,” said KATI principal Mohamed Rashid.

USAID-TAPP, the government of Tanzania and Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA) has partnered to ensure agriculture institutions benefit from practical centers to increase field training sessions to agriculture students, smallholder farmers, and other stakeholders. Currently there are three PTCs which are fully operational with improved technologies in place for training purposes. The PTC include Horti-Tengeru PTC in Arusha, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) PTC and KATI PTC which were established in the mid of last year.



Photo by Fintrac Inc
Participants receive training on good agricultural practices from USAID-TAPP senior agronomist Omar Mohamed (middle) at the KATI PTC.

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“Increased food security through enhanced productivity”

USAID-TAPP is a five-year program implemented by Fintrac Inc. to increase smallholder farmer incomes through enhanced productivity, crop diversification, and improved market access. Visit www.tanzania-agric.org for more information on upcoming activities and to receive copies of monthly bulletins and success stories.

P.O. Box 15035 | Arusha, Tanzania

Tel: 255 27 2545325

tapp@fintrac.com

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